[18th July 1952

Purchase of the stock of handloom goods with master weavers.

* 126 *Q.*—SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal with the Government to purchase the present stock of handloom goods with the master weavers, weaver merchants and co-operative societies?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"No, Sir."

SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM:—"Arising out of the unsatisfactory reply of the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour, may I request the Government at least to consider the desirability of instructing the financing institutions and banks to give loans on the pledge of handloom goods either to the traders or master weavers?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"I have nothing to add to what I have said already."

SRI G. NAGABHUSHANAM:—"Are the Government taking any steps to find a market for this handloom cloth, at least for the present stock?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"As I have explained to the House on a former occasion, the Government are trying their very best to see that markets in foreign countries are found for handloom cloth. I have stated on a previous occasion that we are instructing our Consular offices in the various countries of the world to find out if our handloom cloth can be sold in larger quantities than at present."

SRI G. NAGABHUSHANAM:—"Have the Government secured an internal market for handloom cloth as against the competition of mill-owners?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"If the hon. Member is suggesting that we should give protection to handloom industry, I am afraid the Government have not come to any conclusion in that matter. But so far as the selling of cloth is concerned, we understand that, owing to improvement in conditions, the market at the present moment is better than what it was a few days ago."

11-20 a.m. SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received the resolution passed by the General Body of the Madras State Handloom Co-operative Society on 26th June requesting the Government to grant them a loan of Rs. 1 crore for the purpose of undertaking the purchase and sale of the accumulated stocks of handloom cloth which are mainly intended for the internal market and which may not be sold in foreign markets?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"It is a fact that the Government have received that resolution. But as I said previously, the Government have no proposal at the present moment to dispose of the already existing stocks."

18th July 1952]

Sri C. PULLA REDDI:—" To a previous question the Hon. Minister said that the Government are trying to find foreign markets for the handloom cloth remaining unsold. Is it on the assumption that the poor people's needs in this State with regard to their cloth requirements have been satisfied and so there is this accumulated stock, or is it on the assumption that there is slump in the State and the purchasing capacity of the people is so low that they cannot go in for the handloom cloth? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" A number of questions have been put on this very difficult and delicate subject. I agree with the point made that the present products of the handloom industry in India cannot really find a big market abroad, because the patterns and sizes are all patterns and sizes required in our country. But the competition is really between the mill cloth and the handloom cloth and we will have to find ways and means by which we can solve this difficulty. I may take this House into confidence and say that I have strongly supported and suggested that certain categories, not merely counts, should be exclusively reserved for the handloom industry, and the mills must be prevented from manufacturing those categories. If this is done, I am sure that internal market for the handloom products can be secured without injuring the mill industry which can find a market for its products here as well as abroad."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—" Is it not a fact that yarn of a higher cost is allotted to the handloom weavers and if so, is it not the duty of the Government, who have made such allocations, to take over the accumulated stocks and sell the same later on, so that the situation, so far as the weavers are concerned, may ease? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" The ultimate result of any such procedure as suggested by the hon. Leader of the Opposition would be that we will be selling instead of the weavers having to sell. The person who has to use the cloth is the consumer. Therefore, the suggestion that we should take over the goods and lend, out of our exchequer, money to them, will only postpone the difficulty. We will have to lend money again and again which would not be possible. We must therefore find consumers and thus solve the problem, and that is what I have suggested."

Selection of centres for S.S.L.C. Public Examination.

* 127 Q.—Sri PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the minimum number of students required to have an examination centre for S.S.L.C. Public Examination?

The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—" The S.S.L.C. Public Examination is held in the district and taluk headquarters and in all boys' high schools presenting not less than 75 pupils for the examination. Boys' schools presenting a